

CELEBRATING ARLENE RITTER'S
105TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Arlene Ritter of Johnson, Nebraska, who is celebrating her 105th birthday today, July 22nd.

Arlene was born to Elmer Claude and Ella May Demarest in 1910. She had two brothers, Frank and Harry, and graduated from Talmage High School in Talmage, Nebraska. In December 1932, Arlene married Herbert M.J. Ritter and proudly added farm wife to her list of talents as an artist, seamstress, and cook.

Arlene and her husband raised four daughters. Herbert passed away in 1966, but Arlene continued to live independently on the farm until late last year. She has remained active in her church, school, and community, even serving as the brainchild for the founding of the Brock Bugle local newspaper.

Over the course of 105 years, Arlene has experienced countless remarkable events in Nebraska and our country. As highlights of her life, she lists being honored at a Husker football game and, more importantly, her faith in Jesus Christ. She also enjoys spending time with her 11 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren, and seven great-great-grandchildren.

On behalf of the people of Nebraska's Third District, I congratulate Arlene on her 105th birthday and wish her many more healthy and happy years.

HONORING ALVIN JAY FUGITT

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2015

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness, I rise to recognize an outstanding community leader, Alvin Jay Fugitt, who died after battling Parkinson's disease and cancer for several years.

A resident of the city of La Verne, Mr. Fugitt embraced life, people, and causes that saved endangered species, protected the environment and enriched the lives of the poor and the oppressed.

Mr. Fugitt was an avid reader who co-founded the Friends of La Verne Library, which has provided educational resources to the poor and struggling service men and women. He worked closely with elected officials of La Verne and is recognized as the embodiment of kindness after a lifetime of advocacy for environmental causes, energy conservation, urban development, and improving education.

Mr. Fugitt's selfless service will be missed greatly by his family, friends, and neighbors. We are all devastated by the loss of one so loved, and I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join my constituents and me in honoring Mr. Fugitt for his lasting, positive impact to our San Gabriel Valley community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2015

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, on July 21, 2015, I was not present for roll call votes #448 and 449. Had I been present, I would have voted AYE on both.

HONORING THE EXTRAORDINARY
LIFE OF THOMAS M. LOFTON

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2015

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a beloved member of the Indiana community, Thomas Lofton. Sadly, Tom passed away on June 19, 2015, at the age of 86. He was a well-established attorney and leader of the Lilly Endowment, one of the largest private philanthropic foundations in the country. He will be dearly missed by the Hoosier community, but he leaves behind a tremendous legacy that will live on and flourish under the leadership of those that he has mentored.

A lifelong Hoosier, Tom was born and raised in Indianapolis. He attended Howe High School, and during this time he was an Eagle Scout and a delegate to Hoosier Boys State. He later earned his bachelor's degree from Indiana University and J.D. from the Indiana University Maurer School of Law. He graduated with distinction and was honored with membership to the Order of the Coif and Beta Gamma Sigma, both of which are honor societies recognizing academic excellence.

Tom's experience in the law field is extensive and impressive. He started his career by serving as a law clerk to United States Supreme Court Justice Sherman Minton. After his clerkship he joined Baker & Daniels law firm in Indianapolis and remained there for over three decades. He developed a national reputation as an expert on tax-exempt organizations, providing counsel to organizations like The Clowes Fund, Liberty Fund, Indiana University Foundation, Christian Theological Seminary, the Eiteljorg Museum, and the Lilly Endowment, which he would later Chair.

In 1991, Tom retired from his position as Managing Partner at Baker & Daniels to accept the position of Vice Chairman of the Lilly Endowment and in 1994 was named Chairman, a position which he would hold for the next 22 years. The impact he made in his over 45 years of service in Indianapolis is incredible. During his Lilly Endowment Chairmanship he oversaw the allocation of more than \$7 billion in grants to education, community development, and religion, mostly in Indianapolis. He had a passion for helping others and cared deeply about the Endowment and its legacy. He was known to be a great mentor, investing time in helping others grow personally and professionally. He truly was an embodiment of the Endowment's mission to serve others.

Tom's dedication to charitable causes went beyond his involvement with the Lilly Endowment. He was a member of the boards of the Indiana University Foundation and the Allen

Whitehall Clowes Charitable Foundation, to name a few. Tom also continued his devotion to Indiana University by founding and sitting on the Board of Visitors of the Indiana University Maurer School of Law and sitting on the IU Medical School Dean's Council.

On many different occasions, Tom was recognized for his wonderful work. He received honorary doctoral degrees from Indiana University, Ball State University, and Wabash College. He received numerous awards from Indiana University, including the Distinguished Alumni Service Award, the Thomas Hart Benton Medallion, and was inducted into the Academy of Law Alumni Fellows. From Wabash College he received the Peck Award for his distinguished career. He was even added to the Sigma Nu Fraternity Hall of Honor and awarded by Governor Mitch Daniels the prestigious Sagamore of the Wabash.

Tom is survived by his wife, Betty Lofton, daughters Stephanie Lees of Indianapolis and Melissa Guinn of Bloomington, six grandchildren, two great grandchildren, and his brother, John Lofton. Tom had an unrivaled wisdom and commitment to serving others. Tom was a leader in the community who will always be remembered through his accomplishments and the enduring benefits he created for the Indianapolis community. Please join me in thanking Tom's family and friends for sharing such a wonderful man with the Hoosier community.

HONORING THE THOMPSON-
CLEMONS POST #200

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor The Thompson-Clemons Post #200 of Greenwood, Mississippi.

The Thompson-Clemons Post #200 of Greenwood, Mississippi was the first African American Post established in the State of Mississippi and came about due to the perseverance of eighteen determined Black Veterans of World War I and World War II in the Mississippi Delta.

These veterans attempted to join Keeler-Hamrick-Gillespie Post #29 which refused them membership. Given that this was the 1940s and Mississippi being a segregationist state, Post #29 could not get a majority vote of its members to allow black veterans to join their post.

The eighteen black veterans filed a petition to start a new post and presented it to the Mississippi Department of the American Legion. Mr. Solomon N. Dickerson, a black veteran, postal worker and co-worker of Mr. Author H. Ritchter, the Adjutant of post #29, worked to get the petition through the District. It was due to their vigorous and persistent correspondence to the District and the Mississippi Department of the American Legion that they were allowed to form a separate post if they could find a sponsor.

Keesler-Hamrick-Gillespie Post #29 agreed to serve as a sponsor to assist Thompson-Clemons Post #200 in getting the temporary charter, paving the way for other charters to be granted to other black veteran's groups throughout the state of Mississippi.

Originally, the post was called the Mississippi Delta Post #200. Mr. L.H. Threadgill, principal of Stone Street High School, a veteran of World War II, proposed that the post be named after two former students of Stone Street High School, that were killed in action during WWII. The motion carried and the name was adopted. Thompson-Clemons Post #200 was granted a permanent charter on July 28, 1949, becoming the first Black post in the State of Mississippi. The first Post Commander was Mr. Solomon N. Dickerson.

Mr. L.H. Threadgill and others in the community were instrumental in purchasing the property, obtaining a deed, and getting a building to establish a post headquarters where it is still located today.

The Thompson-Clemons Post #200 of Greenwood, Mississippi has a distinct track record of encouragement to veterans with issues, be they from serving abroad; in combat situations or statewide service. Issues range from transportation to Regional Office and VA Hospital for medical disability claims, educational and skill training, housing and other activities including establishing collaborative partnerships with community organizations to provide emergency services such as utilities, homes for the homeless, counseling and assistance in understanding the myriad of services provided by the VA.

The VA community activities include sponsorship of little league baseball teams, voter education classes, veterans day celebration, adopt a school program, donations to needy families, Boys State Program and the National American Legion Oratorical Contest, where candidates sponsored by Post #200 have won the Mississippi State Championship four times, and three out of the past four years.

Leadership activities include a weekly live call in radio talk program aired on WGNL 104.3 FM in Greenwood, Mississippi where veterans can actually dial up and talk about issues that affect them and their community. Partnering with organizations such as the National Association of the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Greenwood Voters League, Mississippi Valley State University and other community based groups that advocate for social justice.

Thompson-Clemons Post #200 is well integrated into the fabric and culture of the Mississippi Delta and should be recognized as a Post that has the interest of our service men, their families and community at heart.

The American Legion Post #200 is moving forward to continue the legacy of those early veterans who honorably served their country and had the vision that through the American Legion and its core principles, they could continue to protect and build an America and Mississippi.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a remarkable organization, The Thompson-Clemons Post #200, for its dedication to serving our veterans and giving back to the African American community.

TRIBUTE TO DIANE WATTS

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Diane

Watts on the celebration of her 100th birthday. Vera will be celebrating her 100th birthday today July 22nd, 2015.

Our world has changed a great deal during the course of Diane's life. Since her birth, we have revolutionized air travel and walked on the moon. We have invented the television, cellular phones and the internet. We have fought in wars overseas, seen the rise and fall of Soviet communism and witnessed the birth of new democracies. Diane has lived through seventeen United States Presidents and twenty-four Governors of Iowa. In her lifetime, the population of the United States has more than tripled.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent Diane in the United States Congress and it is my pleasure to wish her a very happy 100th birthday. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating her on reaching this incredible milestone, and wishing her even more health and happiness in the years to come.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ONE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2015

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, for nearly 80 years, Social Security has helped protect and nurture the American dream. Americans know if they work hard and pay into Social Security, they and their families will receive Social Security's earned benefits when they need them, for as long as they need them.

Congress has always honored that commitment, making adjustments and corrections to the law as needed, from time to time, so that all Americans receive the Social Security benefits they earned through a lifetime of work. Now Congress must act again. If we don't, 11 million Americans will have their Social Security benefits cut by 20 percent next year.

Let me explain.

Social Security is the heart of economic security for American workers, allowing them to earn birth-to-death protection against the loss of income from work, in one simple package. One seamless Social Security system insures American workers and their families (1) in the case of premature death, (2) if they have to stop working due to a disability or very serious illness, and (3) when they reach retirement.

What many people don't know is that after we make our Social Security tax contribution through each paycheck, the law requires that it be distributed into in two different trust funds—one that pays for benefits we qualify for if a wage-earner dies, or when we retire, and one that pays for benefits we earn if we become too sick or disabled to work.

All American workers contribute to both funds, with the vast majority of their contributions being deposited in the retirement and survivor fund. But in practice, Congress and the American public have simply treated the two funds as one unified financing system, which guarantees payment of all Social Security earned benefits. In fact, Congress has routinely rebalanced the allocation of workers' contributions between the two funds to ensure that all benefits can be paid. For example, in 1980 and again in 1983, Congress shifted

funds from the disability fund in order to shore up the retirement and survivor fund, and then in 1994, the most recent reallocation, Congress shifted some of the incoming contributions back to the disability fund, ensuring that it could pay benefits through 2016.

Now it's 2015. Social Security has an overall surplus of \$2.8 trillion, which all workers helped build up. Those who receive Social Security due to a disability worked and paid into Social Security for an average of 22 years to earn their benefits, making a significant contribution to the surplus. But because Social Security is legally required to pay Social Security benefits earned because of a disability only out of the disability fund, the benefits of Americans who receive Social Security because of a disability will be cut by 20 percent unless Congress takes action to permit Social Security to use all its available funds to pay all earned benefits.

Social Security is one unified system. It's wrong to separate out Social Security Americans qualify for because of a disability from the rest of Social Security. It's wrong to delay action on legislation to pay Americans the Social Security benefits they earned and need to live.

Americans know we have one Social Security, and they are counting on Congress to act now to protect all of it, not just some pieces of it.

Just like 168 million other Americans, I pay into Social Security with every paycheck. I make one contribution—just one—to earn Social Security's lifetime, all-in-one protection. I don't make different contributions for disability, for retirement, and for my survivors. It's all one—just one Social Security.

When we begin our working lives, none of us knows what kind of insurance from Social Security we'll need, or at what stage of our lives we'll need it. Some workers will die young, leaving family who can rely on Social Security survivors' protection. The majority of seniors depend on Social Security as their primary source of retirement income. And no one expects to suffer a career-ending disability, but if they do, Social Security is there for them. There's one Social Security that covers it all.

For millions of Americans, that one Social Security coverage—"there when you need it"—is a lifeline. Social Security's survivor insurance is the equivalent of a \$476,000 life insurance policy for a worker with young children. More than half of workers who receive Social Security disability insurance payments because of a work-ending illness or injury would live in poverty without Social Security. Many will not survive to receive retirement benefits. Death rates for disability recipients are three to six times higher than for others their age. And unlike most other retirement benefits, Social Security is inflation-protected and cannot be outlived, which is why 44 percent of seniors who are 80 and over have little or nothing other than Social Security to live on.

Today I am introducing the One Social Security Act to make sure we don't break Social Security's simple promise to every American worker—if you pay into one Social Security, you and your family will receive your full earned benefits, of whatever kind, when you need them.

The One Social Security Act would prevent the scheduled 20 percent cut in Social Security benefits for 11 million Americans by merging Social Security's trust funds into a single